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ON TWO NEW SALAMANDERS OF KENTUCKY

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The fictious Sirens, Salamanders, Sylphs,
No longer sought in vain, in water swim
Near us, and breathe in clumsy shapes or blow
In elegance of forms; but changed all

On two new Salamanders of Kentucky.

All the fictitious beings which the exuberant imagination of Poets has created, are now removed to the delusive regions of fancy; but the Naturalists have availed themselves of many such poetical names, and given them a kind of relative reality, by adopting them to their nomenclature, and applying them to several beings formerly nameless.

Thus the name of Sylph has been given to a genus of beautiful North-American plants, of the sun-flower tribe. Some very singular animals resembling Eels, but having two feet and external gills, which are found in the U. States and Mexico, have been called Sirens: while all the Lizards without scales nor claws, and living in a tadpole, state in their youth, like frogs, form the extensive tribe of Salamanders.

There are at least fifty species of Salamanders in the United States, although hardly ten species had been noticed a few years ago; but several species have lately been discovered by Prof. Green of Princeton and one by Mr. Gilliams of Philadelphia, while I have myself detected and described above 25 new species of this family; of which I have already published many, and the others will be seen in my Monography of the American Salamanders.

Mr. Delafield has lately asserted to have discovered a new American Salamander or Proteus; but it happens to be my *Necturus maculosus*, published in 1820 in my Annals of Nature, species 17. Such mistakes will frequently happen, if former labours are not consulted when we study our animals.

Our Salamanders belong principally to the genera *Triturus*, *Salamandra*, *Meantes*, *Necturus*, *Sirena*, &c.; but an attentive comparison of our species, has induced me to notice many distinctions among them, which will require the formations of new genera or sections, while among the 8 lamanders of Kentucky, two new species lately observed must be considered types of two new genera.

I have called the first genus Uaotrois. It differs from my genus Necturus by having the hind feet with five toes and the tail cylindrical with a keel above.

The species upon which this genus is established, was found in the Kentucky river in 1821, and the specimen is now in my possession. It is commonly called Alligator, as are all the large water Salamanders, although they are totally different from the American Crocodile or real Alligator.

My specimen is 21 inches long, of which the tail is one third or 7 inches. The whole color is uniformly of a dull brownish, faintly clouded with darker brown. The head is large, flat above, mouth very large, full of small teeth, upper jaw longer and mucronate: the eyes are above, distant, very small and round. The gills are on the sides of the neck in the shape of rounded holes. The feet are short

and thick, with unwebbed toes. The body is oblong, with a flattened back. The tail is pyramidal, the keel is slightly undulated.

I call this animal UROTHOPIS MUCRONATA. The generic name applies to the shape of the tail, and the specific name to the shape of the upper jaw.

I have called the second genus EURYCEA LUCIFUGA: the first name is mythological, the specific denomination relates to its habit of avoiding the light.

This animal was discovered near Lexington in 1820, by Mr. Crockett, who collected several species, and gave me some of them; it lives in caves and in the dark; but not in water. It differs from the genus *Salamandra* by its large flat orbicular head, jaws with teeth and feet with half-webbed toes. Vulgar name, Ground puppet.

Its length is from 4 to 6 inches, the tail being much longer than the body or five eighths of total length. Color orange, with numberless oblong black dots. Mouth exceedingly large, split to the neck, jaws equally orbicular, the lower with many small unequal teeth, the upper jaw has only some lateral obtuse teeth. Feet slender, the fore feet have four toes and the hind feet five toes, all half-webbed. Tail slender cylindrical. Eyes large elliptical, covered by a black eye-lid. Its manners are similar to those of the land Salamanders, and it feeds on insects.

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